

In the Claims:

The status and content of each claim follows.

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus that controls tasks in a multi-tasking computer network, comprising:

a job ticket service, being configured to:

function as a centralized service for controlling access to original job tickets where a job ticket is configured to define a job including ~~one or more~~ a plurality of tasks to be performed and includes a job ticket reference;

receive status updates from task processors that are responsible for performing a task from an original job ticket where the task is associated to the job ticket reference; and

update the original job ticket associated with the job ticket reference based on the status update, such that the job ticket service controls modification of the original job ticket; and

a work flow controller configured to separately assign the ~~one or more~~ plurality of tasks from a single original job ticket to selected task processors by distributing a ticket copy of the single original job ticket and distributing the job ticket reference to each selected task processor that identifies the single original job ticket and the job ticket service, where the selected task processors can include an external service provider.

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2. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
a job ticket storage for maintaining the original job tickets.
3. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the job ticket service is configured to allow the selected task processors to access to the original job tickets using the job ticket reference.
4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the job ticket service is configured to limit access to the original job ticket by a selected task processor to a portion of the original job ticket and prohibits access to other portions of the original job ticket.
5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the job ticket service assigns the ~~one or more~~ plurality of tasks from the single original job ticket based on bids received from one or more task processors.
6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the job ticket reference is configured to be passed between multiple task processors to allow access to at least a portion of a corresponding original job ticket.
7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a job store that stores job content, and wherein the original job ticket comprises:

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a service identification that correlates the original job ticket to the job ticket service;

a job identification that correlates the original job ticket to the job content; and

a control module that includes parameters that define processes required to complete a task.

8 - 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for controlling tasks in a multi-tasking network, comprising:

receiving a job ticket at a job ticket service;

creating a job ticket reference to the job ticket;

storing the job ticket reference;

controlling access to original job tickets by the job ticket service where the job ticket is configured to define a job including ~~one or more~~ a plurality of tasks to be performed;

assigning the ~~one or more~~ plurality of tasks from a single original job ticket to selected processors by distributing a ticket copy of the single original job ticket and distributing the job ticket reference to each selected processor that identifies the single original job ticket and the job ticket service, where the selected processors can include an external service provider;

receiving status updates from the selected processors relating to an assigned task

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that are identified by the job ticket reference; and

updating the original job ticket associated with the job ticket reference based on the status update, such that the job ticket service controls modification of the original job ticket.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

providing the job ticket reference to a processor in the network; and

providing the processor with access to the job ticket based on the job ticket reference.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein access to the job ticket is limited to a portion of the job ticket.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

receiving a job content corresponding to the job ticket;

storing the job content in the network; and

providing the processor access to the job content.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

receiving a capability of a plurality of processors;

receiving an availability of each of the plurality of processors; and

selecting one or more of the plurality of processors to process the job ticket.

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18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising, when each processor of the selected one or more processors completes a process, receiving an update to information in the job ticket.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the selecting step is completed by a work flow controller in the network.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the selecting step is completed by an entity submitting the job ticket into the network.

21 - 22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium for providing computer executable instructions for causing a computer to perform a method, the method comprising:

controlling access to original job tickets where a job ticket is configured to define a job including one or more tasks to be performed;

assigning different tasks from a single original job ticket to different task processors by distributing a ticket copy of the single original job ticket and distributing a job ticket reference to each task processor that identifies the single original job ticket and a job ticket service, where the different task processors can include an external service

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provider;

receiving status updates from the different task processors relating to an assigned task that are identified by the job ticket reference; and

updating the original job ticket associated with the job ticket reference based on the status update, such that the job ticket service controls modification of the original job ticket.

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